

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
APPROVED Minutes of June 7, 2011 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Wes Bell, Kathleen Paterson,
Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

2. Minutes of the May 9, 2011, special meeting were approved.

Old Business

3. *Agricultural Zoning Regulations* The committee reviewed the May 16 public hearing and noted that many of the committee's recommendations were included in the June 2 draft that PZC reviewed at their June 6 meeting.

4. *Agricultural Producer Survey Results* Most of the farmers responded to the survey and expressed support for the tax incentive options and for a right-to-farm ordinance. At the August meeting, the committee will prepare a presentation about both items for the Council. The tax subcommittee was asked to prepare a written summary of the tax options for that meeting. An analysis of potential fiscal impacts will also be needed for the Council presentation. A "meet your farmers" event may be held preceding the Council meeting.

5. *Farmland Usage Agreement - Subcommittee Update* Ed provided a draft of items to add to the 2012 usage agreements, and the committee recommended some changes and additions. These will be sent out to all members for review, and a final list of items will be considered and approved at the July meeting.

New Business

6. *Agriculture Committee Annual Report* The committee reviewed the 2010 report and made updates for the 2011 report.

7. *OSPC Referral – Farmland Preservation* Vicky conveyed an Open Space Preservation Committee request for the committee to provide recommendations for farmland preservation. The Committee will review maps and decide next steps at the September meeting.

8. The meeting adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting is on July 5.

Items for future agendas

Farm usage agreement items - July meeting

Town Council presentation – August meeting

Farmland preservation – September

Agriculture incentives action plan, publicity

